GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:251
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2002
BAN ON PRODUCTION OF OBSCENE AND VULGAR FILMS
BHAWANA GAWALI (PATIL);HARIBHAU MAHALE

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that scenes which create a bad influence on the mind of youth and children are continuously exhibited in the Cinema in violation of directions of the Censor Board;

(b) if so, whether very obscene scenes have been picturised in some films including `Road` released recently;

(c) if so, the details and reasons therefor;

(d) the criteria laid down by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) to picturise or cut such scenes;

(e) whether the Government propose to form a Committee to draw guidelines/criteria to issue directions to the CBFC to check screening of such films while issuing Censor Certificates;

(f) if so, the details and time by which the said guidelines will be strictly implemented; and
(g) the other steps taken/likely to be taken by the Government to keep a vigil on exhibition and production of such films in future?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) to (g): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 251 FOR ANSWE ON 5.12.2002

(a) to (g): The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has been receiving reports of violation of the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952, by way of exhibition of uncertified films or films with interpolation of scenes deleted by the CBFC or insertion of portions not shown to the Board, in several States and Union Territories. Although enforcement of the Cinematograph Act is a State Government responsibility, yet CBFC had also hired a private detective agency, during 2001-2002, to carry out regular checks in theatres in the four metropolitan cities to detect cases of violation of the provisions of the Act and report the same to the concerned State authorities for prompt investigation and possible prosecution.

The Central Government has already issued detailed guidelines, vide notification dated 06.12.1991, under sub-section (2) of section 5B of the Cinematograph Act, which, inter-alia, seek to ensure that human sensibilities are not offended by vulgarity, obscenity or depravity.

The Examining Committee of CBFC, which previewed the film `ROAD`, unanimously recommended grant of a clear `A` certificate to the film. The Board accepted the recommendation.